



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 06/23/2026

REQUESTER: Ronda Guerrero, Court Administrator

PRESENTER: Ronda Guerrero, Court Administrator

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ORDINANCE O-2526-69 UPON SECOND AND FINAL READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADJUSTING THE SALARY OF PRESIDING AND ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF THE MUNICIPAL CRIMINAL COURT AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORMAN; AND AMENDING SECTION 22-208(C) OF CHAPTER 22 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORMAN ADJUSTING THE SALARY OF THE ACTING JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL CRIMINAL COURT; AND SECTION 22-102(B) ADJUSTING THE FEE FOR COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.

BACKGROUND:

The last increase for the Norman Municipal Judges was in 2012. The Associate Judge's salary has not been increased since 2008. The fee for court appointed attorneys has not been increased since 2012.

DISCUSSION:

A Benchmark Survey was conducted in April 2026 of judicial salaries of Oklahoma cities which included Edmond, Miami, Broken Arrow, and Del City.

Judicial Salaries

The salaries for part-time Presiding Judges among surveyed municipalities range annually from \$67,097 in Edmond, \$50,676 in Miami, \$49,197 in Broken Arrow, and \$28,800 in Del City, compared to Norman's current salary of \$36,650. The only city surveyed that had an Associate Judge listed was Edmond and the salary is \$28,182 compared to \$25,000 in Norman.

The Presiding Judge routinely spends 8–12 hours per week on Municipal Court matters. These duties include in-person and prisoner video arraignments, jury and non-jury trials, cost hearings,

ruling on motions, and responding to inquiries from Court personnel and the Cleveland County Detention Center, including nights and weekends. The Associate Judges also conduct arraignments, jury and non-jury trials, cost hearings, and ruling on motions.

Currently, the compensation for Acting Judges is \$250 per session. Acting Judges perform many of the same judicial functions as the Presiding and Associate Judges when serving in their place.

Despite the significant responsibilities and time commitment required for these positions, compensation has remained unchanged for many years. The proposed increases would better reflect the responsibilities associated with the positions and align more closely with compensation rates in comparable jurisdictions.

Appointment of Counsel

Court-appointed attorneys are lawyers who provide legal counsel to individuals who have been criminally charged and are unable to afford private representation. Defendants submit an application for a court appointed attorney for review to the Court. The Presiding Judge reviews the Application and decides if the defendant qualifies for counsel.

Section 22-102(b) of the Code of the City of Norman, Oklahoma, provides that the Judge shall authorize payment of a fee to Court-appointed counsel as provided in the City fee schedule, which currently provides for a fee of not less than \$100 nor more than \$250. Appendix A to the Code of the City of Norman fee schedule will be adjusted to a fee of not less than \$100 nor more than \$350.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Presiding Judge's salary be adjusted from \$36,650 to \$40,315, the Associate Judge's salary be adjusted from \$25,000 to \$27,500 and that the salary for an Acting Judge found in Sec. 22-208(c) be amended from \$250 per session to \$350 per session.

It is also recommended that Sec. 22-102(b) be amended to allow the Judge to authorize payment of a fee to counsel of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than three hundred fifty dollars (\$350).